



Harvard Biomarkers Study:

Partners Humans Research Committee

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Lipid Markers for Parkinson's and Memory



**Courtesy of Sam Ogden/MJFF*

Although Parkinson's and related disorders are thought of primarily as movement disorders, memory is frequently affected and this interferes with quality of life. This research aims to find tests -- so called "biomarkers" -- that are critical for developing new therapies to slow or even prevent memory loss. A pathway regulating an important type of neuronal lipids (fats in nerve cell membranes), termed sphingolipids, appears abnormal in Parkinson's and will be monitored in blood and spinal fluid. The goal is to develop a test for a "bad sphingolipid" useful for accelerating the development of medications to halt memory decline in patients.

Who can participate?

- 1. People diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and memory symptoms**
- 2. People diagnosed with dementia with Lewy bodies,**
- 3. Healthy controls (without Parkinson's disease or dementia with Lewy bodies)**

Interested in learning more?

**Please contact Yuliya Kuras, Ph.D. @
(857) 307-5424
ykuras@bwh.harvard.edu**

What does participation involve?

If you join the study, you will participate in a total of 4 visits during 2 years. Every visit will include clinical assessments, questionnaires, and a blood sample. Additionally, you will be asked to donate a cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) sample roughly once a year. You will be compensated \$200 for each lumbar puncture (up to 3 times).

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you are interested in participating in this research study, feel free to call us with any questions.